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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Harper et al.

Serial No.: 10/068,200

Filed: March 29, 2002

Confirmation No.: 8186

For: Process for Loading a
Reactor

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Group Art Unit: 1764

Examiner: Unknown

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on	
December 24, 2002 with the United States Postal Service as	
First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner	
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3 Jan 03 Date	 Signature

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims and add new claims 3-7 as follows:

B₁
1. (Amended) A method for loading solid particles into a multi-tube reactor, reactor tubes of the reactor having an inner diameter of at least 2 times the diameter of a single particle to be loaded therein, the reactor having an upper tube-sheet holding together the upper ends of the multitude of reactor tubes, the method comprising the following steps:

a) positioning a loading device having a plurality of holes on top of the upper tube-sheet such that the loading device rests on and substantially covers the upper tube-sheet and the holes correspond to the reactor tubes, said loading device comprising a plurality of adjacent polygonal plates, each polygonal plate having from 1